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HAYWOOD HALL

by

Walter M. Stearns

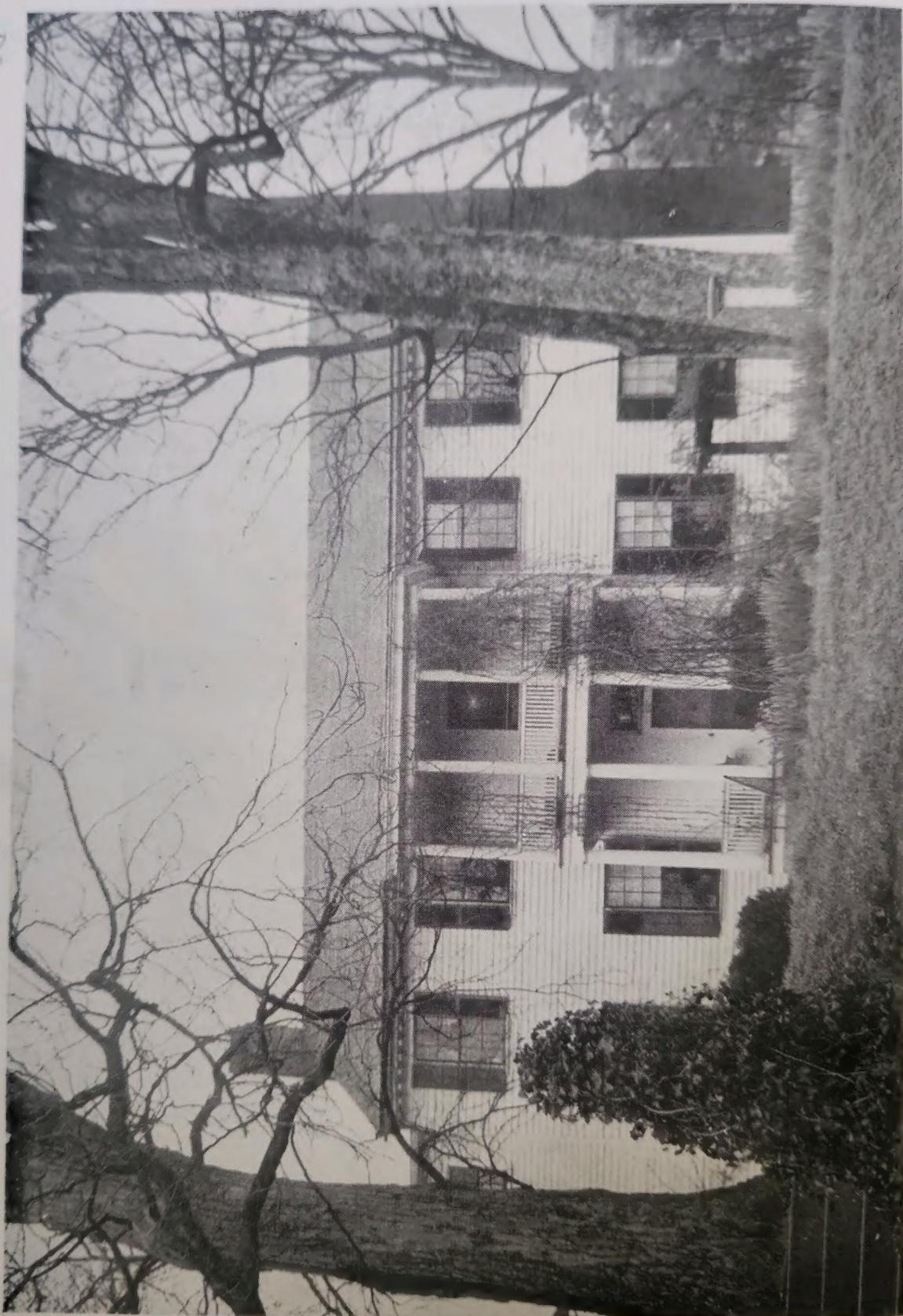
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Haywood Hall

FOREWORD

It is with considerable hesitancy and trepidation that I attempt to write the history of Haywood Hall in view of the excellent biographical papers already written by Mr. Marshall Delancey Haywood and by Dr. Hubert Haywood. The history of Haywood Hall is so closely associated with its occupants, that the biographical history of these occupants conveys to a large extent the history of the Hall itself. I am therefore deeply indebted to the writers of these biographies and I shall freely quote from them. I am also indebted to Miss Martha Haywood and other members of the Haywood family for information given me.

WALTER M. STEARNS.

Raleigh, N. C., February 27, 1948.

NOTE: This paper was read before a meeting of the Wake County Committee of the Colonial Dames of North Carolina held at the home of Mrs. Marshall Delancey Haywood, in Raleigh, on February 27, 1948.

HAYWOOD HALL

The family of Haywood is of English origin and was settled in Northwestern England from very early times. Adam de Burgo or Bury granted lands in the Parish of Bury to Peter Haywood (b1164) which remained in the possession of the family down to the 18th century.

The first of the Haywood family to come to this country was John Haywood, who came to North Carolina from the Barbadoes in the early part of the seventeenth century, and resided at the mouth of Conoconarie Creek, in a part of the colonial county of Edgecombe, now a part of Halifax County.

Public service occupied most of his time. For over twenty years he was agent for the Earl of Granville, the only one of the Lords Proprietors of North Carolina who retained his landed holdings in the Colony when the other Proprietors sold their interests to the Crown in 1729.

He was a member of the Colonial Assembly from 1746 to 1752, and the records show that he was the originator of many important measures, and was a diligent member of many committees. His knowledge of civil engineering caused his appointment as one of the Commissioners for erection of coast fortifications. In 1752, Colonel Haywood was made Treasurer of the Northern counties of the province, and he retained this office until 1754 when he became commanding officer of the Provincial troops of North Carolina, in the county of Edgecombe.

He married Mary Lovett and was the father of seven children, the oldest of whom was William Haywood. He died in 1758 after a useful life during which he was of great service to his adopted State of North Carolina.

William Haywood, in 1760, two years after the death of his father, represented Edgecombe County in the Provincial Assembly at New Bern. In 1765 he was made a colonel in the Provincial forces of North Carolina in the county of Edgecombe. In 1760 he received from the Earl of Granville a grant of 440 acres of land, and in 1761 a further grant of 113 acres, for which he was required to pay forever a yearly rental of three shillings per hundred acres, or a total rental of approximately sixteen shillings per year. This yearly rental to the crown was evidently discontinued after the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolution, Colonel Haywood sided with the Colonies. He was elected to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina and was a member of the Committee of Safety for the district of Halifax, of which Edgecombe County formed a part, and he was re-elected to the title he held before the war, a Colonel of North Carolina for the county of Edgecombe. He represented Edgecombe County in the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, and in 1776 was elected a member of the Governor's Council. He was a member of numerous committees serving the State of North Carolina during these trying times, and was evidently a man highly thought of by the population of Edgecombe County and his work at that time was of great benefit to the State. Colonel Haywood must have been a man of wealth as it is said that during the Revolutionary War, at a cost of \$50,000, he raised and equipped a regiment of men from Edgecombe County for the State of North Carolina.

Colonel Haywood built his home on the land obtained from the grant by the Earl of Granville, calling it Dunbar Plantation, and those who have the opportunity can see a picture of this house now hanging in the hall at Haywood Hall. Later this home was destroyed by fire.

We now come to the builder of Haywood Hall, John Haywood. He was born on February 23, 1755, at the home of his father, Wm. Haywood, at Dunbar Plantation. His early education was received at a school taught by the Rev. Thos. Burges, a clergyman of the Church of England. In addition to some service in the militia, Mr. Haywood acted in a clerical capacity for several Provincial Congresses and General Assemblies which convened during the course of the Revolution. He is described as a blond, good-looking young man, proud of his English looks and bearings. That he was blond is borne out by the fact that a beautiful miniature of John Haywood, now in the possession of Mrs. Thos. D. Knight, a daughter of Gov. Daniel G. Fowle, and a great-granddaughter of John Haywood, contains in the back a lock of John Haywood's hair, and this gives ample proof of his being blond. It is from photographs of this miniature that various oil portraits of John Haywood have been made.

In 1787 John Haywood was unanimously elected Treasurer of the State of North Carolina, a position he held for forty years, being continuously re-elected to that office. This indeed

was able evidence of his integrity and ability. It must have been a tremendous task to change the colonial currency antedating the Revolution to the script or paper money of the revolutionary period and to the currency of the State of North Carolina, and then to fit that into the currency of the United States which at that time was made up of thirteen States and populated by people with diverse ideas of what money was, and what taxes should be. Some of the States had rebellions against the taxes then enforced, but North Carolina had no such rebellion and this speaks well for the men who were State Officials at that time.

The total population of North Carolina at that time was approximately 100,000, the total wealth was very small, with no factories, and the only taxable wealth was the farms, farm products and personal property. The largest towns in the State contained not over 3,000 inhabitants, so it can readily be seen the outstanding ability of John Haywood in successfully overcoming as treasurer this difficult situation.

He was appointed a member of the committee to select the site for the new State capital, and this committee chose a site at the junction of Deep River and Haw River, in Chatham County, and a town named Haywood was started at that place, but the final choice for the location of the capital was made by the State Legislature, and they chose the present location of Raleigh. In 1792 the Legislature of North Carolina passed a law requiring the officers of the State to reside in the State capital, and under this requirement John Haywood moved to Raleigh and purchased a square of land bounded by the present New Bern Avenue, Blount Street, Edenton Street, and Person Street, and in 1792 started building a home on that site. At the time John Haywood moved to Raleigh his brothers, Sherwood, Stephen and William, moved here with him. This is good evidence of the clannish spirit that has always existed and still does among the Haywood families.

John Haywood was undoubtedly one of the most popular men of his time, as testified by the fact that not only was the town of Haywood named for him but also the county of Haywood in the western part of the State. He was intensely interested in education and during his entire life was always willing to help worthy young men to obtain an education, and many men who

later became prominent in North Carolina owe a great deal to the help given them by John Haywood. Space and time for this paper do not allow a description of his many other activities, but he was a member of the committee to select a site and found the University of North Carolina, was one of the original trustees of that institution, and remained on the Board of Trustees as long as he lived. He was one of the founders of Christ Church in Raleigh, and was a warden and vestryman of that church during his lifetime. He helped found the Raleigh Academy and served as trustee of that institution for many years.

When John Haywood moved to Raleigh there was no such office as "Mayor," but each white male citizen of the population was required to give a certain amount of his time to performing what would now be known as police duty. These men were directed by John Haywood, and he really was the first "Mayor" of Raleigh, although his title at that time was "Intendent of Police."

John Haywood died November 18, 1827, at the age of 72. He was married twice. His first wife, Sarah Leigh, died childless. He married in 1798 Eliza Eagles Williams, daughter of Col. John Pugh Williams of Revolutionary fame, and by this marriage had twelve children, among whom were his eldest daughter, known as Betsy John Haywood, his eldest son, Fabius J. Haywood, and his youngest son, Edmund Burke Haywood. Betsy John was a famous beauty of her day and when General Lafayette came to visit Raleigh after the Revolution he said she was the most accomplished and beautiful woman he had seen in this country. She was also hostess for her father at Haywood Hall when he entertained General Lafayette there at breakfast. She was also the young lady chosen to escort Lafayette to the various points of interest in Raleigh and a steel engraving of Lafayette and Betsy John viewing the Canova statue of Washington is the prized possession of many members of the Haywood family. The original of this engraving now hangs in the State Capitol. The eldest son, Fabius J. Haywood, was born in Haywood Hall, and it was his home until he married. An old leather trunk used by him when he went to college and having his name on it was recently found in the attic at Haywood Hall. He married Martha Helen Whitaker, and then moved from

Haywood Hall to his home on the corner of Fayetteville and Morgan Streets, a site now occupied by a State building. He graduated from the University of North Carolina, and received his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania. He became one of the leading physicians and surgeons of the State, and for over fifty years practiced his profession in the City of Raleigh. In 1848 Dr. Fabius Haywood, assisted by Dr. Richard Benehan Haywood, performed the first surgical operation in North Carolina employing chloroform. His oldest grandson, Fabius Haywood III, is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He was the grandfather of the present owner of Haywood Hall, Mrs. Mary Haywood Stearns.

Following the ownership by John Haywood, Haywood Hall became, by purchase, the property of his youngest son, Edmund Burke Haywood. He was born in 1825, in this house which was built by John Haywood, received his early education at the Raleigh Academy and at the age of 18 entered the University of North Carolina, and later received his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1849. He then came back to Raleigh to practice his profession. During the War Between the States he enlisted as a private, and joined the Raleigh Light Infantry, and was made surgeon of that Company. Soon Governor Ellis appointed him to the more important duties of organizing and establishing the military hospitals of the State. In 1861, he was appointed Surgeon of the North Carolina State troops. He received many other appointments from the State and officers of the Confederacy, who recognized his great ability as an organizer and as a member of the medical profession. His reputation as a medical practitioner was unexcelled and in the practice of surgery he was particularly distinguished. He was intensely interested in helping the unfortunate and in 1889 he was appointed by Governor Daniel G. Fowle as chairman of the Board of Public Charities and as such was largely instrumental in establishing the hospital for the insane for colored people near Goldsboro and the hospital at Morganton. He died January 18, 1894. In 1850 he married Miss Lucy Williams, daughter of Alfred Williams of Raleigh. They had one daughter and six sons.

After the death of Dr. Burke Haywood and his wife, the property was divided among their children, and the property

from his mother and his brother Edgar, the property of Mr. Ernest Haywood. The portion of the estate bordering on Blount Street had been sold as was the portion of the estate bordering on Person Street, but the remaining property, consisting of approximately 205 feet on New Bern Avenue and 205 feet on Edenton Street was owned by Ernest Haywood, his brother John, still living in Columbus, Ga., and the children of Mrs. Preston Bridgers of Wilmington, the only daughter of Dr. Burke Haywood.

Mr. Ernest Haywood became one of the most prominent lawyers in North Carolina and his ability as a lawyer made his services in great demand, especially in the handling of estates and in matters pertaining to real estate law. At the time of his death Mr. Ernest Haywood, who had lived in Haywood Hall all of his life, his share of the estate be left to his nephew, Mr. Burke Bridgers of Wilmington, and it was from these cousins that the present owner, Mrs. Mary Haywood Stearns, purchased the property.

The story is told that during the War Between the States when Haywood Hall was occupied by Union troops the children of Dr. Burke Haywood who still lived in part of the house used to look out of the windows and watch the Union soldiers using their bayonets to prod the ground in the garden searching for buried silver. Another war story is that while Raleigh was occupied by Union troops, a Union general named Blair, who had been in college with Dr. Richard Haywood, placed a guard at Haywood Hall to prevent any damage to the property.

And now we come to the house built by John Haywood. It is located about 75 feet back from New Bern Avenue and was evidently built on the highest part of the land purchased by Mr. Haywood. A wide terrace borders on New Bern Avenue, and originally at the top of this terrace the whole front was bordered by a box hedge. In the middle of the row of box was a unique stone stile, with a swinging gate, and through this gate a gravel walk led to the house entrance. This walk was also bordered by box bushes. At one corner of the lot bordering on New Bern Avenue was a cedar tree and at the other corner a holly tree.

The architect of the house is unknown, but a comparison of the house built by John Haywood and the house built by his

father at Dunbar plantation show much similarity. The main features of the house when approaching from New Bern Avenue are the double deck entrance porch of classic design, the beaded weatherboarding, the medallions and triglyphs under the eaves, and the two massive chimneys, one on each side of the house. The house still stands on its original foundations made from stone locally quarried. All timbers in the house are hand hewn and trimmed and held together by wooden pegs or hand wrought nails. The house took two years to build, and while it was building John Haywood occupied a small two-room cottage located on the lot near New Bern Avenue. After the house was completed the cottage was used as an office by John Haywood, and afterwards by Dr. Burke Haywood. During his occupancy of Haywood Hall, Mr. Ernest Haywood had this cottage moved to a position in the rear of the main house to which it was joined. It is now used as an apartment.

The floor and roof timbers used throughout the house are of exceptional size and a contractor who recently had occasion to tear down the ceiling in the master bedroom said he never saw such timber used in the construction of a house, and in his opinion the house would stand for many hundred years.

The front door opens on a spacious hall running through the house to a double door with a beautiful fan window over it at the rear. On the right as you enter is the parlor or drawing room approximately twenty feet square. The main features of this room are the handsome paneling topped by hand-carved moulding around the top of the room, the hand-carved mantelpiece, and the massive panelled doors with their original L hinges and brass door knobs. Back of this parlor is the pantry with a wide staircase leading to the second floor. On the left as you enter the house there was originally a large room approximately 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, with a huge fireplace on the side of the room toward Blount Street. It was in this room that John Haywood made his reputation for hospitality. It is said that during each session of the Legislature John Haywood entertained each member at breakfast, and during those days this was a very substantial meal. Here were also held the assemblies or balls of the period, this room and house being the largest place available. During the occupancy of Mrs. Burke

Haywood this large room was divided into two rooms, as it now stands. The original furniture for the house was imported by John Haywood from England, brought by water to Charleston, S. C., and from there by mules to Raleigh.

Going up the stairway to the second floor one is impressed by the width of the stairway, the paneling on its sides, and the beautiful hand carving on the architraves. Here also hang the carved wooden pineapple and apple then used as emblems of hospitality for which the house was famous. There are three spacious bedrooms on the second floor, with an additional small bedroom. The third floor is divided into two large rooms, one of which is lathed and plastered and was probably used as a dormitory for the numerous children who lived in the house.

Another feature of the house is the fact that nearly all the rooms on the first and second floors are panelled for a distance of about four feet from the floor, and the space back of the paneling is filled with clay. This was probably done to decrease the fire hazard and give additional warmth, but it made a severe handicap in later years when plumbing, and electrical wiring were installed. As was the custom at the time the house was built, the kitchen was located in a separate building located about 20 feet in the rear of the main house, and is still standing, with its large wooden pineapple on the top of the roof, again the sign of hospitality.

For a description of the grounds in the rear of the house and the gardens I am indebted to Dr. Hubert Haywood, who as a child played there, and also to other members of the Haywood family. A large portion of the yard at both the rear and on the sides of the house were devoted to utility purposes and to beautiful gardens. On the corner of what is now Blount and Edenton Streets stood the slave quarters for the domestic servants, and midway on Blount Street stood the horse stable and carriage house. Some fifty feet away bordering on Blount Street stood the cow stable and stable for the pony. There were enclosed lots for the horse and pony to run in and also one for the cow. In later years after the lots adjoining Blount Street had been sold, a stable and room for the house servant were built on the back of the lot near Edenton Street, and these buildings still stand.

There was originally a family cemetery in the far corner of the garden, marked off by box bushes and japonicas, but in the later years of Mrs. Burke Haywood, she had the remains of all buried there, removed to the Burke Haywood lot at Oakwood Cemetery and the late Ernest Haywood had suitable monuments and markers placed on the graves.

The yard to the north of the house was devoted to flowers, flowering shrubs and ornamental walkways. This yard was entered by going over a stone stile on top of which was a swinging gate, and leading from this gate were numerous walks lined with box bushes on both sides. In the back of the yard was a well of pure cold water which furnished all the water for drinking purposes and also a place for cold storage. The gardens were well planted with either fruits or vegetables for household use, and the scuppernong grapevine and fig trees still provide their share of the family larder.

Most of the fruit, vegetables and flowers were indigenous to this climate, but some were imported. The greatest ornament was a magnificent magnolia tree imported from Brazil. The crepe myrtle trees now located in the garden are said to be among the oldest in the State. The garden always was the home of numerous birds, such as the humming bird, the mocking bird, and the red bird, and these in addition to the beauty caused by the large plots of roses, daffodils, blue bells, jessamine, snowdrops and many other flowers made the place one that could never be forgotten after it had been seen.

Time limitations force the closing of this rather meager description of Haywood Hall and its occupants. It has been the home of many illustrious citizens of North Carolina, and many notable people have been entertained there. Let us hope that the future owners will never forget the history and tradition attached to the house, and will do their best to carry on with the same spirit as those who preceded them.

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